

Claim Amendments

1. (original) Apparatus for limiting rotation of a cementing plug during drillout of the cementing plug after casing has been cemented in a wellbore, the apparatus comprising:

an outer housing;

a sleeve disposed in the outer housing, the sleeve having an open upper end for receiving the cementing plug, the sleeve having an inner surface configured to engage the cementing plug and limit rotation of the cementing plug during drillout, the sleeve comprising a plurality of sleeve segments having upper and lower ends and having first and second edges, the sleeve segments being connected to one another at the edges thereof to form the sleeve.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each sleeve segment defines a boss at the first edge thereof and a groove at the second edge thereof, the bosses being received in the grooves of adjacent sleeve segments to connect the sleeve segments together.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein each segment defines an inner surface having a plurality of radially inwardly extending protrusions for engaging the cementing plug.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, the protrusions comprising radially inwardly extending ribs, the ribs extending longitudinally from the upper end to the lower end of each segment.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, the protrusions comprising a plurality of protrusions having a triangular cross-section.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, the sleeve being comprised of eight sleeve segments.

7. (amended) Apparatus for limiting rotation of a cementing plug during drillout of the cementing plug after casing has been cemented in a wellbore comprising a sleeve ~~adapted to be~~ inserted in the casing, the sleeve comprising a plurality of sleeve segments connected to one another, the sleeve having a generally cylindrical outer surface that will engage the casing.

8. (original) Apparatus of claim 7, wherein each segment has first and second edges extending from an upper to a lower end thereof, the segments being secured to each other at the edges thereof.

9. (original) Apparatus of claim 6, wherein at least a portion of the segments have inwardly extending protrusions on an inner surface thereof.

10. (original) Apparatus of claim 9, wherein the protrusions comprise ribs having a generally triangularly shaped cross-section.

11. (original) Apparatus of claim 9, wherein the protrusions comprise ribs extending from the upper to the lower end of the segments.

12. (original) Apparatus of claim 7, wherein the sleeve is fixedly secured to the casing.

13. (original) Apparatus of claim 7, wherein the sleeve segments have mating grooves and bosses at the edges thereof.

14. (new) Apparatus of claim 7, wherein at least a portion of the segments have inwardly extending protrusions on an inner surface thereof.

15. (new) Apparatus of claim 14, wherein the protrusions comprise ribs having a generally triangularly shaped cross-section.

16. (new) Apparatus of claim 14, wherein the protrusions comprise ribs extending from the upper to the lower end of the segments.

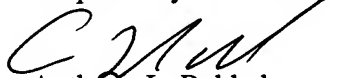
Comments

The Examiner has allowed claims 1-6 and 9-11 and has rejected claims 7, 8, 12 and 13 in view of U. S. Patent 4,426,162 to Tsuchiya et al. That rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 7 has been amended so the "adapted to be" language has been deleted and language has been added to reflect that the inner sleeve, comprised of a plurality of sleeve segments, will engage the casing. Thus, claim 7 is now directed to a sleeve inserted in the casing wherein an outer surface of the sleeve engages the casing. The '162 patent cited by the Examiner discloses a rotor shaft for use in a steam turbine. The '162 patent does not disclose a sleeve inserted into a casing and is not related to downhole drilling or the limiting of rotation of cementing plugs. Because the '162 patent does not disclose the limitations of claim 7, claim 7 and all claims that depend therefrom should be allowed.

Conclusion

Accordingly, and for the reasons set forth herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the allowance of claims 7, 8 and 12-16 along with previously allowed claims 1-6 and 9-11.

Respectfully submitted,



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